

ASIAN STUDIES HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 2006

MAJOR & MINOR

New Paltz is the only University College in the SUNY system to offer both a minor and a major in Asian Studies.

The major in Asian Studies requires two years of language, plus additional coursework on Asia, to total 37 credits.

Recent program innovations enrich students' experience:

- a) Strong encouragement for Study Abroad
- b) Training in library research methods & resources on Asia
- c) Exposure to a wide range of perspectives on Asia
- c) Emphasis on individual experience & development

Students are always urged to consider ways of combining their Asian Studies work with a minor or double major in a discipline. We have found that this brings greater range and depth to the student's intellectual development, and also makes graduates more competitive in the eyes of prospective employers and graduate programs.

The minor in Asian Studies minor requires 18 credits -- one year of language study, plus electives on Asia.

To learn more, just visit the Asian Studies program office at JFT 922 and speak with the program director, Prof. Kristine Harris (x3546). Plans of Study are available outside the office, and students can reserve appointments on the sign-up sheet.

COURSE HIGHLIGHTS - Fall '06

For the coming Fall 2006 semester, students can choose from **28 course sections** on Asia, in a variety of disciplines -- including language and literature, anthropology, art history and film, music, Asian Americans, history, political science, philosophy and religion. To view course descriptions, visit the online schedule of classes (on the drop-down menu) under ASIAN STUDIES.

Take this opportunity to sign up for a **selected topics course** in fall 2006! These special courses are offered less frequently, so now is your chance:

Chinese Cinema Weds 3:30-6:20 3 credits 58393-01

Why do films from the People's Republic, Hong Kong, and Taiwan command such attention today -- and what is "Chinese" about these cinemas? This course introduces the widely different ways in which individual directors have represented the historical experience of modern China for local and global audiences, as they grapple with issues of colonialism, nationalism, and cultural identity during the twentieth century. We view and discuss outstanding films from the PRC, HK, and Taiwan in class. Issues for consideration include: the relationship between film narrative and collective memory; the concerns of filmmakers during periods of war, revolution, and radical social change; cinema as an indicator of changing tastes and values; and

ASIAN STUDIES BOOK AWARDS

1 Asian Studies Program Book Awards for the calendar year 2005 were presented at Spring Festival. These awards formally recognize & reward excellent academic achievement amongst students in Asian Studies courses. All students with an outstanding record in coursework relating to Asian Studies, regardless of their chosen major or minor, are eligible for consideration. Our hope is that this recognition will stimulate students to continue their work in the field.

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3 Each recipient of this award receives a certificate and has the opportunity to select a book from our Awards collection. The following award recipients were nominated by faculty teaching these courses:

4 **Karen Cheech Barber** -- nominated by Elizabeth Brotherton for excellence in Arts of Early China, and by Dylan McGee for excellence in Great Books Asian Classics

5 **Jennifer Chard** and **Sondra Hardwick** -- nominated by Yuko Matsubara for their accomplishments in Intermediate Japanese

6 **Terence McCoy** -- nominated by Professor Jonathan Schwartz for his outstanding work in International Politics of the Asia Pacific

7 **Florence Nelson** -- nominated by Professor Victor DeMunck for her achievements in Cultures of India

8 **Lorraine In Kyung Vultaggio** -- nominated by Kristine Harris for her strong analytical writing in Modern China

9 **Serena Winchell** -- nominated by Professor Chris Robins for her exceptional academic performance in Japanese Aesthetics and Culture

LIRARY ASSISTANCE

The Asian Studies Perspectives requirement trains all Asian Studies majors in library research methods.

Our Library Liaison for Asian Studies is Megan Coder, and she is happy to help students & faculty seeking advice or guidance in library research involving Asia. Megan can be reached via email at coderm@newpaltz.edu.

SPRING FESTIVAL:

YEAR OF THE DOG

About 120 students, faculty, alumni, and Friends of Asian Studies attended the "Spring Festival" gathering in early February to ring in the Year of the Dog. Asian Studies Book Awards were presented to accomplished students. Professor TAO Jie (Beijing University), one of China's leading specialists in American Literature, and a prominent expert in Women's Studies in China, spoke on the topic

the connections between cinema and other literary, visual, and performing arts traditions in China.

STUDY ABROAD

JAPAN -- Currently 7 SUNY New Paltz students are studying at the **University of Nagasaki**, studying language and culture. Opportunities for teaching ESL exist for current students and for students preparing to graduate. Scholarships are also available. See Foreign Languages Professor Chris Robins robinsc@newpaltz.edu

CHINA -- Study Mission in May 2006 (6 credits) -- Political Science Professor Jonathan Schwartz will lead this two-week study trip to China. **A few spots remain in this exciting program!** Interested students may contact him at schwartj@newpaltz.edu.

SUNY: China Programs

The New Paltz campus is playing a leading role in SUNY-wide plans relating to China programs. More news to come!

SPECIAL EVENTS

JAM ASIA -- April 3rd – 9th. The Asian Student Association (ASA) is hosting its annual week of events relating to Asia, every night from Monday to Saturday. The schedule for the week is filled with fun and informative events:

- Monday, April 3rd - Casino Night
- Tuesday, April 4th - Culture Night
- Wednesday, April 5th - International Market
- Thursday, April 6th - Poetry Night
- Saturday, April 8th - Jam Asia
- Sunday, April 9th - Formal Dinner

Everything should be free. Questions? Contact Phuong La from ASA at La95@newpaltz.edu

FILM & PIZZA NIGHT

Revolutionary Women in Chinese Film -- Tuesday April 18 – Faculty Tower 1010 -- 6 PM – Come enjoy Chinese cinema with English translation. **Pizza and juice will be provided!**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Looking Back, Looking Forward:
Celebrating Asian Studies at SUNY New Paltz**
Saturday, September 9, 2006

Asian Studies will be hosting an event bringing together current students, graduates, faculty, and Friends of Asian Studies. The occasion will include a luncheon and a roundtable featuring accomplished alumni of the Asian Studies program.

Details will be announced as planning proceeds.

“China and the US: A Personal Experience.” . TAO Jie earned her Master’s degree at SUNY New Paltz in 1981.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

Steve Scheno studied Chinese in Shanghai and Nanjing, and graduated in 2003 with a double major in Asian Studies and International Relations. He is now a graduate student at NYU.



Steve Scheno flying a kite in Tiananmen Square, Beijing during his year of study abroad.

Erynn Sarno, class of 1998, double majored in Asian Studies and Art History, and after graduation spent two years teaching in China. She then completed a Master’s degree in East Asian Studies at Harvard University, and is now working at the SUNY Levin Institute for International Relations and Commerce in New York City.



Erynn Sarno and Kristine Harris (History / Asian Studies) shopping for books at the Harvard Coop in Cambridge, Mass.

TRENDS

Recent reports by the federal government, businesses, and educators suggest that study of Mandarin Chinese will be **highly beneficial** to future graduates.

www.newpaltz.edu/asianstudies